Community Capacity

The following questions can help in assessing your community's needs, partnerships, and readiness. Try to answer each question, even if the question is not related to your work or agency. It's important to reflect on your knowledge of other agencies' processes.

Staffing	Notes:
How would you describe your agency's staff capacity related to domestic violence response? *How many staff are specifically focused on domestic violence response?* *How many staff are focused on high-risk domestic violence response?* *Could a current staff role include coordinating the High-Risk Team and Lethality Assessment?* *Would a new staff position be required to coordinate the High-Risk Team and Lethality Assessment work?* *How would you describe your agency's level of training in response to domestic violence?*	
Flow of Information	*Notes:*
How would you describe the flow of reports and documentation between community partners? *How does the data and information flow through various systems when there is a supervision violation?* *How would you describe interagency confidentiality practices in your community?* *What kinds of technology does the agency typically use in domestic violence response? (i.e. databases or case file management systems, email, dedicated cell phones or hotline numbers, or others)*	

Domestic Violence Response	Notes:
Do officers currently use a tool for lethality assessment? Which tool?	
What is the protocol for responding to a domestic violence call?	
What is the protocol for responding to and interacting with the victim?	
What resources is the victim offered on-scene?	
What happens to the initial report from the call? Where does it go next?	
What written internal policies govern domestic violence response practices at your agency?	

Victim Services	Notes:
How close is the nearest community-based domestic violence advocacy agency?	
What kind of services do they offer?	
How is a survivor most likely to find and connect with a community-based domestic violence advocate?	
How would you describe local shelter capacity?	
Is there a shelter option specifically for domestic violence survivors?	
What protective tools (such as protection orders, shelter, relocation) are available for survivors in your community?	
How are they accessed, utilized, or enforced?	

Interagency Working Relationships	Notes:
How would you describe your working relationship with these agencies? How often do you contact these agencies? • *Law Enforcement* • *Community-Based Advocates* • *Emergency Dispatch* • *Community Supervision* • *Corrections* • *Court Services* • *Prosecutors* • *Judges* • *Culturally Specific Organizations* • *Organizations Working Directly with Underserved Communities* *How would you describe any challenges between systems-based and community-based agencies?* *Does your community have a CCR?* *What agencies are represented?* *How often do they meet?* *What is included in the agenda and discussed during a typical meeting?* *How would you describe the activity of the CCR?* *What CCR initiatives have been successfully launched or implemented?*	

Underserved Communities	Notes:
What ethnic populations are represented in your community?	
What cultural identities are represented in your community?	
Describe your agency's relationship with these groups.	
What are the culturally specific organizations in your community?	
What agencies work directly with underserved communities?	
How does your agency interact with these organizations to address domestic violence?	
What barriers might underserved populations and survivors with marginalized identities encounter when accessing your services?	
Are you aware of specific language barriers that have been encountered by high-risk offenders and/or domestic violence victims?	
Who do you go to for support or assistance on topics related to underserved communities? Who do you rely on for outreach to these communities?	

Group Discussion Questions for HRT Partners:
- What relationships will the agency need to develop with other system actors and community-based organizations to implement the High-Risk Team and Lethality Assessment protocols?
- How might the High-Risk Team foster interagency collaboration to address gaps in domestic violence response?
- What kind of time and capacity could staff dedicate to the High-Risk Team and Lethality Assessment?
- Is there community capacity to implement and sustain the High-Risk Team and Lethality Assessment?